



**Department of
Defense
Civil Defense Division**

News Release

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For Immediate Release

**TOLL FREE NUMBER TO REPORT DAMAGES
FROM RECENT FLOODING**

Honolulu – Hawaii State Civil Defense is activating a toll free number for damage reports from residents whose property, home, or business was damaged by the on-going severe weather. The toll free number is **855-211-7456, extension 654**.

Telephone calls to the toll free number will be monitored by State Civil Defense staff. If the line is busy or is not picked up, please leave a message including your name, phone number, and island so damage assessors can return your call.

Accurate reporting of disaster damage will help determine whether or not the State meets the criteria for supplemental federal disaster assistance. Reporting damage does not guarantee financial aid for repairs. Photo documentation of damages (e.g., flood water level, blown roofs, lightning damage) is recommended.

According to the National Weather Service, the system causing the heavy rains, thunderstorms, hail and high surf should move west of the islands sometime Saturday morning. If you are in a flood prone area, take the following precautions:

- Do not walk or drive through moving water. As little as six inches of moving water can wash away an adult and as little as one foot of moving water is capable of washing away a vehicle. If you must walk through water, look for a still patch and use a stick to determine depth. If your car becomes surrounded by flood water, get out and walk to higher ground.
- If you are asked to evacuate and have time, unplug electrical appliances. Do not touch electronics if you are wet or standing in water.
- If you must re-enter a flooded building, be aware that the foundation may have been compromised or the electric system may have shorted. Flood waters can also contaminate bottled water, canned goods, fabrics, and other household goods. Do not use these items as they can make you sick.

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Contact the State Civil Defense Public Information Office: 808-733-4300, Fax - 808-733-4278
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